

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
21 STATE CIRCLE
SHAW HOUSE
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HISTORIC SITES SURVEY FIELD SHEET
Individual Structure Survey Form

SURVEY NUMBER: AA 1595

NEGATIVE FILE NUMBER:

UTM REFERENCES:
Zone/Easting/Northing

U.S.G.S. QUAD. MAP:

PRESENT FORMAL NAME:

ORIGINAL FORMAL NAME:

PRESENT USE: Theatre

ORIGINAL USE: Theatre

ARCHITECT/ENGINEER:

BUILDER/CONTRACTOR:

PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE:

Excellent () Good (X)

Fair () Poor: ()

THEME:

STYLE: Beaux Art

DATE BUILT: c. 1920

COUNTY: Anne Arundel

TOWN: Annapolis

LOCATION: 46-48 State Circle

COMMON NAME:
Circle Theatre

FUNCTIONAL TYPE: Comm Map Par

OWNER: Durkee Frank H 3rd

ADDRESS: Rt 2 Box 175
Monkton, MD 21111

ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:

Yes (✓) No () Restricted ()

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Local (✓) State () National ()

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Structural System

1. Foundation: Stone () Brick (X) Concrete () Concrete Block ()
2. Wall Structure
 - A. Wood Frame: Post and Beam () Balloon ()
 - B. Wood Bearing Masonry: Brick () Stone () Concrete () Concrete Block ()
 - C. Iron () D. Steel () E. Other: Structural Tile
3. Wall Covering: Clapboard () Board and Batten () Wood Shingle () Shiplap ()
Novelty () Stucco (X) Sheet Metal () Aluminum () Asphalt Shingle ()
Brick Veneer (X) Stone Veneer () Asbestos Shingle ()
Bonding Pattern: Common Other:
4. Roof Structure
 - A. Truss: Wood () Iron () Steel (X) Concrete ()
 - B. Other:
5. Roof Covering: Slate () Wood Shingle () Asphalt Shingle () Sheet Metal ()
Built Up (X) Rolled () Tile () Other:
6. Engineering Structure:
7. Other:

Appendages: Porches () Towers () Cupolas () Dormers () Chimneys () Sheds () Ells ()
Wings () Other: Marquee

Roof Style: Gable () Hip (X) Shed () Flat () Mansard () Gambrel () Jerkinhead ()
Saw Tooth () With Monitor () With Bellcast () With Parapet (X) With False Front ()
Other:

Number of Stories: 2 = 3

Number of Bays: 5

Approximate Dimensions:

Entrance Location: Centered

THREAT TO STRUCTURE:

No Threat (X) Zoning () Roads ()
Development () Deterioration ()
Alteration () Other:

LOCAL ATTITUDES:

Positive () Negative ()
Mixed () Other:

ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL OR STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Massive theatre building, with Neo-Classic front facade retaining some of its period detailing, but marred by later inappropriate marquee.

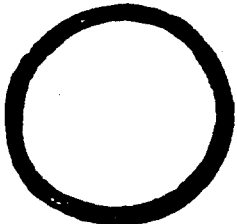
RELATED STRUCTURES: (Describe)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Of minor architectural interest, but important to streetscape as it fills entire frontage between Cornhill and East Streets, and is in scale with contiguous structures.

REFERENCES:

MAP: (Indicate North In Circle)



SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

Open Lane()Woodland()Scattered Buildings()
 Moderately Built Up()Densely-Built Up(✓)
 Residential()Commercial()
 Agricultural()Industrial()
 Roadside Strip Development()
 Other:

RECORDED BY:

Russell Wright

ORGANIZATION:

Historic Annapolis, Inc

DATE RECORDED:

Aug 1983

Circle Playhouse

The Circle Playhouse was constructed in 1919-1920 by Circle Playhouse, Inc. at a cost of over \$131,000. Clearing of the site began in September 1919 and the finished theatre was opened to the public in September 1920. The theatre was designed by Henry Powell Hopkins, an Annapolis native who graduated from St. John's College and who studied architecture at Columbia University. Hopkins also designed the Senate Office Building in 1935 and the Legislative Services Building and Delegates Office Building in the 1970s.

During the 1970s, Hopkins practiced as a member of Henry P. Hopkins and Associates, Baltimore, Maryland. The 1984 Baltimore phone directory does not list a firm by that name, but does include listings for three members of the Hopkins family:

Henry P. Hopkins 106 Elmwood Road 323-3450

Henry P. Hopkins Jr. res: 1111 Lovegrove Alley 752-6196

Henry P. Hopkins III 1111 Lovegrove Alley 752-8196
1111 Lovegrove Street 962-8420

James J. Stehle was the contractor for construction of the theatre. Stehle later operated as part of Stehle, Beans and Beans. Although the firm is still listed in the phone book, the number given is that of Dutton Contracting. According to a representative of Dutton, they have been in business at that location since 1953, but did not acquire the firm of Stehle, Beans and Beans and do not have any of S,B&B's records.

Jean Russo
Historic Annapolis, Inc.
April 1985

Excerpts from the Evening Capital relating to Circle Playhouse:

9/25/1919

construction site being cleared

James J. Stehle, contractor; Samuel Byerley, president; and H. P. Hopkins, architectt visited Washington yesterday to examine the stage plans of several Washington theatres.

10/11/1919

detailed pen drawing of the exterior facade of the Circle Playhouse

10/30/1919

descriptive leaflets being distributed

theatre colonial in design, of brick and tile

will feature a Moller 2-manual pipe organ, costing about \$4,000

seats, manufactured by American Seating Co., will be upholstered in blue moroccaline leatherette

the theatre color scheme will be blue and gray

the balcony will include mezzanine boxes with wicker chairs

11/20/1919

steel framework material now on the job and being set in place

12/5/1919

contract for the stage let to New York Studio, and will include 12 complete shifts of scenery

main curtain to be of blue velvet velour

asbestos fire curtain as well

stage 24' x 40', able to accommodate any show that might be desired

12/19/1919

plan and drawings of the architect on display at Central Drug Store, J. Newton Gilbert (treasurer of Circle Playhouse, Inc.), proprietor incorporators of theatre: S. Byerley

James Stehle

Dr. J. Oliver Purvis

James A. Welch

J. Newton Gilbert

Charles F. Lee

1/15/1920

fixtures ordered from Victor Butler, N. Charles St., Baltimore

including candlesticks for foyer and dome for ladies restroom and boxes

blue velvet carpet runners ordered from Minch & Eisenbrey, Baltimore

bentwood upholstered plush chairs to match from American Seating Co.

9/24/1920

418 seats on first floor, 502 in balcony

350 lights: 54 large domes, 38 on first floor and 90 in marquee above entrance

2 old lamp posts of Washington's time installed at corners of State Circle and Cornhill & East Streets

designed in all details by Annapolis architect Henry Powell Hopkins
son of Col. Harry Hopkins, president of Farmers National Bank
St. John's man, with courses at Columbia and other universities
electrical equipment supplied by Simpson Electrical Co., Annapolis
plumbing installed by Charles A. Howard, local plumber
entire construction, including plaster molding, work of Annapolis
artisans
no pillars; cantilever suspension used with 76 tons of steel holding
the suspension of the arches under the balcony

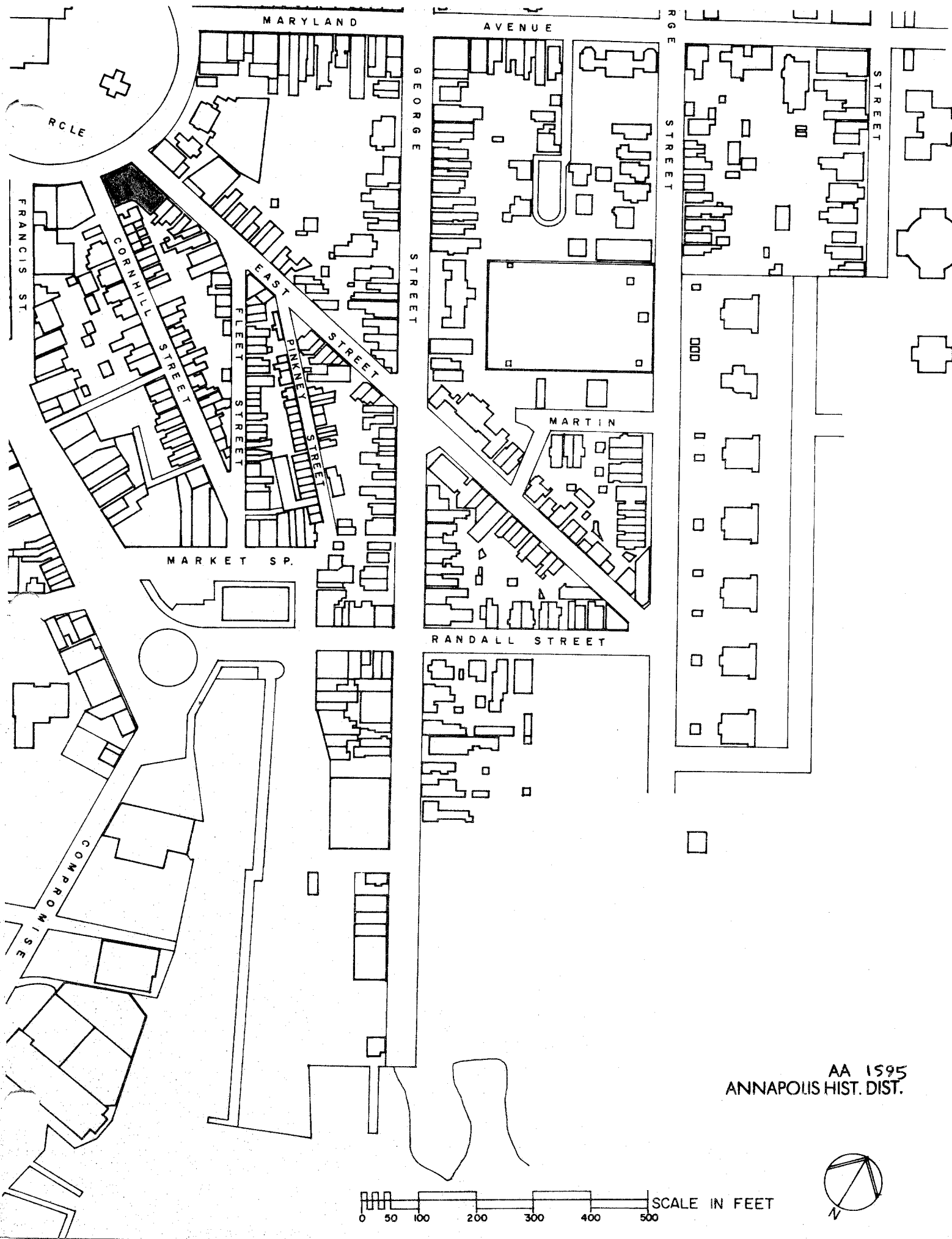
9/25/1920

cost over \$131,000

Morris Meade, construction foreman

9/27/1920

Governor Ritchie attended the opening on 9/25/1920; shareholders
attended on 9/24/1920



AA 1595
ANNAPOLIS HIST. DIST.



46-48 State Circle

7A 1595

Annapolis, Anne Arundel County

Russell Wright July, 1982

Maryland Historical Trust,

Annapolis, Maryland

NE Elevation/camera facing SW